



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

**September 28, 2012**

**SHIPROCK MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL ASSAULT CHARGE**

ALBUQUERQUE – This morning in Albuquerque federal court, Torvold Kellywood, 45, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Shiprock, N.M., pled guilty to assault with a dangerous weapon under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Under the terms of the plea agreement, Kellywood will be sentenced to a three-year term of imprisonment. Kellywood has been in federal custody since his arrest on May 24, 2012, and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Kellywood was indicted on June 12, 2012, and charged with six offenses arising out of two separate incidents during which he assaulted a Navajo woman. Count 1 of the indictment alleged that Kellywood assaulted the victim with a dangerous weapon on Dec. 14, 2011, by kicking her with a boot.

During this morning’s hearing, Kellywood entered a guilty plea to Count 1 of the indictment. In his plea agreement, Kellywood admitted that, on Dec. 14, 2011, he kicked his victim with his shoes with the intention of causing her bodily harm. Kellywood acknowledged that, as a result of the assault, the victim sustained a four-inch laceration above her eye that required medical attention. Kellywood further admitted that the assault occurred in Shiprock, which is located within the Navajo Indian Reservation.

The case was investigated by the Farmington Office of the FBI and the Shiprock Division of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Niki Tapia-Brito.

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